THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) In a resolution passed at the Workshop on women with disabilities organised by a NGO in October, 1996 it was, inter-alia resolved that atleast 5% reservation of seats for disabled women in the Parliament, State Legislatures and local bodies be allocated.

(c) Since the subject regarding reservation to Parliament and Assemblies is not dealt in this Ministry, the resolution has been referred to the separate Ministry.

Difficulties Faced by the Employees of PSUs opting for Voluntary Retirement

2388. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of employees of Public Sector Undertakings who opted for voluntary retirement scheme became paupers after some time;

(b) if so, whether Govt, propose to take measures like providing some training to acquire technical skill or social security through pension so that they are not reduced to poverty; and

(c) the other measures Govt, are taking to help the workers?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) In order to safeguard the interest of the employees who availed of Voluntary Retirement Scheme with the assistance of National Renewal Fund, the Govt, have been providing counselling, retraining and redeployment assistance to workers rationalised after July, 1991 through Employee Assistance Centres, set up by Nodal Agencies in 49 locations spread over 16 States.

Setting up of major industries in the North-Eastern Region

2389. SHRI ONWARD L. NONG-TDU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is proposing to set up major industries in the North-East during the next five years period; and

(b) if so, the types of industries proposed to be set up and the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) A comprehensive package for North-East is under preparation.

Trade with Romania

2390. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Romania and India propose to take appropriate steps for creating institutional mechanism to treble the trade turnover by 2000 A.D. and to catalyse the Romanian investments into India showing negative trend since collapse of the Eastern Europe;

(b) if so, details thereof with background;

(c) whether the two countries have also agreed to set up ware-house in each other's country;

(d) whether the two countries have also agreed for marketing of the items in the third world countries besides setting up of joint venture projects in the power and petroleum sectors and Railways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof with initiatives to be taken by India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The Government of India and the Government of Romania have taken appropriate steps for creating institutional and other mechanisms to increase the